

Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee

Thursday, January 16, 2003

Chair Herro called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

Present: Supervisors Ken Herro (Chair), Mareth Kipp, Paul Pronold, Jim Jeskewitz, Carl Seitz, Alicia Silva, and Sandy Wolf f.

Also Present : Chief of Staff Lee Esler, Legislative Policy Advisor Dave Krahn, Senior Financial Analyst Andy Thelke, Senior Financial Analyst Clara Daniels, Public Health Supervisor Irene Ridgeman, Public Health Supervisor Rosie Schroeder, Epidemiologist Darren Rausch, Parks & Land Use Director Dale Shaver, Environmental Health Supervisor Steve Korthof, Health & Human Services Board Member JoAnn Weidmann, Public Health Manager Nancy Healy -Haney; Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Nutrition Supervisor Merr ie Baltramonas; Administrative Services Manager Russ Kutz, Health & Human Services Director Peter Schuler, Long Term Care Manager Jack Bodien, and Clinical Services Manager Mike DeMares.

Approve Minutes of December 5, 2002

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, second by Silva to approve the minutes of December 5, 2002. Motion carried 7 -0.

Schedule Next Meeting Dates

January 30th.

Review Correspondence

Copies of the following correspondence from Health & Human Services staff were distributed: a letter from a client praising the care of their son by Waukesha County Health & Human Services, in particular, the Community Support Program; and a memo from Marc Marotta, Secretary of the State Department of Administration, on action to address the fiscal year 2002 -03 deficit.

Announcements

Esler discussed the timeline for the various County Code revisions that will be considered by the Executive Committee and, ultimately, the full County Board. In all, this should take about six months to complete.

Discuss Committee Member Attendance to Health & Human Services Advisory Committee Meetings

Herro referred to the list of advisory committee meetings and he encouraged committee members to attend. He said attending these meetings would give them a better understanding of Health & Human Services in general. Schuler gave an overview of each of the advisory committees.

Meeting Approvals

MOTION: Kipp moved, second by Seitz to approve attendance for any committee members wanting to attend any of the advisory committee meetings. Motion carried 7 -0.

Educational Presentation on the West Nile Virus

Shaver said the Environmental Health Division of the Parks & Land Use Department has been involved with the West Nile virus for about a year now. Korthof distributed various information including departmental activities and programming associated with the virus, Wisconsin counties with West Nile virus positive horses, and frequently asked questions about the virus. Division activities include the following: continue to work with the DNR and DHFS by submitting appropriate bird specimens for

testing and mosquito trapping; developed educational materials for the public on how to reduce mosquitoes around the home and to take personal precautions and avoid mosquito bites; enhance their website with regular West Nile updates and downloadable information on infection prevention; and outreach to communities on West Nile conferences. DHFS is sponsoring a West Nile virus conference for municipalities on February 18, 2003 in Milwaukee and details will be available soon.

Korthof said a vaccine is being worked on and they're confident one will be developed in about five years. A total of 29 crows found in Waukesha County were retested for the West Nile virus. Of those, 22 were negative and 7 were positive. In addition, there have been 5 human and 4 horse illnesses associated with the virus. Korthof noted that West Nile is not a big problem in Waukesha County. Korthof explained how the virus is contracted and how it's spread. Typically, the virus occurs in late summer and then it goes away in winter. The cycle begins again next summer. Mosquito repellent and clothing are the best deterrents.

Esler asked how the Environmental Health and Public Health divisions are coordinating their efforts. With regard to the human cases last year, the Public Health Manager reported them to Environmental Health right away. Shaver said his staff works with Public Health on an annual basis, not only on West Nile but on other health and environmental issues as well. Peter Schuler, as Health & Human Services Director, is the statutory health officer for the County. He is and will continue to be the spokesperson on these types of issues. Schuler said the two divisions basically exchange information back and forth. Shaver noted that the two departments will continue to coordinate and get information out to the public.

Herro asked if a plan is in place in case of a crisis and if there are problems getting information out. Korthof said it's not a matter of getting the information out but more so, will people use it to their advantage. The bigger issue is a lack of funding. Shaver advised, however, that the state has made funding available in some areas for mosquito assessment and abatement purposes. The City of Waukesha will receive state grant funding and Waukesha County is required to be the pass-through agency for the funding and an ordinance will be forthcoming. The County will monitor the City's activities and collect data for the State which should also benefit County efforts.

Educational Presentation on the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Nutrition Program

Healy-Haney and Baltramonas were present to discuss this issue. Copies of "Waukesha County Public Health Division Fact Sheet" were distributed as well as an article from the Wisconsin Medical Journal entitled "Evaluation of a Pregnancy Outcome Risk Reduction Program in a Local Health Department." With regard to the latter, a study was done to assess the effectiveness of Waukesha County's prenatal care coordination program. Referring to the findings outlined in the article, Healy-Haney said they are doing exceedingly well with administering this program and success rates are very high.

WIC is a federal grant program and is available to promote and maintain the physical health of nutritionally at-risk pregnant, breastfeeding, postpartum women, infants and children. Nutrition related deficiencies lead to premature births, low birth weights, infant deaths, poor growth and development, and brain damage in infants and young children. This is not a mandated program but it is preventative and when successful, results in significant cost savings in other health care over a child's lifetime. Healy-Haney said the neonatal expense of low birth weight babies is astronomical and there are also long term ramifications. Schuler referred to their Long Term Care Division as an example.

Low-income families, 185% above the U.S. poverty guidelines, are eligible for the program. For example, a family of two would need to have an annual income of \$22,089 or less. Staff estimate that an average of 2,071 women, infants and children were served per month in 2002. However, about 3,000 are eligible in Waukesha County according to their economics. Healy-Haney went on to discuss outcome measures. They are required to provide data to the federal government on a weekly basis in order to continue to receive funding. Food vouchers are also available for these mothers and their children which total about \$1,080,000 per year.

3rd (2002) Quarter Health & Human Services Department Fiscal Report

Kutz discussed this issue as outlined in his reports. Regarding Public Health, 3rd quarter expenditures were \$77,800 higher than the comparable 2001 period but lower as a percent of the budget at 59% versus 65% in 2001 primarily due to lower than budgeted grant expenditures.

Human Services Fund 150 Community Aid expenditures were ahead of the 2001 nine-month level by \$1.8 million at \$21.6 million but about the same as a percent of expenditures at 67% in both years. 2002 nine-month revenues, at almost \$17.5 million, were 83% of the budget which was comparable to 2001 level of \$17.2 million or 84%.

Long Term Care Fund 310 nine-month expenditures were \$18.0 million, or 65.6% of the 2002 budget, which was \$1.8 million higher than the comparable 2001 period. Operating expenses were \$2.0 million higher in 2002 mostly related to a \$1.7 million increase in CIP expenses as a result of a \$1.4 million increase in state waiver funding to reduce waiting lists.

Mental Health Center Fund 350 expenditures were ahead of the 2001 nine-month level by \$109,300 at 69.7% of the modified budget compared to 70% in 2001. Revenues were \$81,200 ahead of the 2001 nine-month level at 73% of the modified budget compared to 63% at nine-months 2001 reflecting higher admissions and client insurance/medical assistance coverage. Service levels and revenue trend estimates for 2002 was factored in the 2003 adopted budget.

Discuss Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) Proposal for Redesigning Wisconsin's Human/Social Service Delivery System

Schuler, Kutz, and Bodien were present to discuss this issue. The Wisconsin Counties Association and the Wisconsin Counties Human Service Association jointly developed a proposal to redesign Wisconsin's human and social services delivery system. This proposal was reviewed and adopted by the WCA Board in December, 2002. WCHSA has requested that county boards and human service boards review the proposal and determine if individual counties wish to support it. This proposal is being submitted to this committee for consideration and feedback. In concept, this proposal would identify core human services for all Wisconsin citizens regardless of the county of residence. The proposal would establish clearly delineated funding levels that would bethere responsibility of the State and the counties. It would also make overmatch decisions a clearer decision for the counties.

There are some key questions that have yet to be answered such as whom make the decisions and how are the rates set? Whom negotiates the rates? What's included in the benefit package and who determines what services are included? What is the governance structure? If the rates are insufficient to cover actual costs, how will these overruns be handled?

Schuler said the committee that came up with the proposal included various departmental directors from around the state, and while all have a lot of experience, there were no "big county" directors involved nor anyone from Waukesha County. Concerns were brought up as to whether this would be a benefit or be detrimental to Waukesha County. Krahn said concerns could be addressed through County Board Chair Jim Dwyer who's on the WCA Board of Directors. Wolff, a member of the Health & Human Services Steering Committee, asked for written materials so she can bring these issues to their attention. Schuler said he would provide her with that information.

Jeskewitz asked if the proposal involves a push to reduce mandates. Schuler said after talking in depth with state administrators, he did not think there was anyone on the state level who is serious about reducing or eliminating mandates. Krahn said a mandate bill will soon be introduced but if it goes through, it will more than likely result in major service cuts and this could cause problems for counties.

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Schulersaidthecurrentsystemisfundedbyablockgrant,consistingprimarilyofcommunityaidsand youthaids.Thenewproposalinvolvesasystemthatallowsforanaverageamountofmoneyperperson sostaffcantakecareofthatperson'sneeds.Hesaidthisusuallydoesn'tworktoobadlybutthestate hasn'tdemonstratedtheirwillingnesstoputinthestatemoneytomatchfederaldollarstogetbetter rates.Thisisaconstantissueandtherefore,we'reunderfunded.Sometimes,theunderfundingismadeupwith taxlevyandothertimesit'stheconstantshiftingofwhichclientiseligibleforwhichfunding source.Schulerhadconcernsthat somecountieshavechosennottolevymoremoneybecauseofacap. Therefore,eventhoughtheymaywanttosupplementtheirbudgetstobetterfundsom programs,even thosethatcouldsavethemoney,theycan't.SchulersaidWaukeshaCountycouldcomeoutaheadbut itcouldgoeitherwayandhecan'tseethatfar ahead.Henotedthathe didn'tthinkthestatewouldever increasethelockgrantsandinfactmorethanot,they'reworkingonnewwaystocutfundingrather thansupportit.

SchulerreferredtotheproposalinwhichCraigThompsonofWCA saidthiswouldprovidethestatewith the ability to regain control overspending decisions.Schulerdisagreedbecause thestatecan't tell the courtsthey'renotgoingtofundthoseservicesanymorethanwecan.Hesaiditalsosaysthatthe state wouldthenbeprovidedwithall sortsof outcomesandotherinformationsotheycouldknowwhatthe moneyisbeing spenton.SchulersaidmillionsofdollarshasbeenspentinformingtheState departments ofHealth&FamilyServices;Corrections;andWorkforceDevelopmentmany timesover what the money isbeing spenton.Whytheycan'tinformthelegislatureofthisinformationisbaffling.

Krahnsaidtheremaybehopeduetoanewgovernorandanewadministration.Also,CraigThompson willbeinvitedtothenextcommitteemeetingtodiscuss these issues.

Herrodeclaredthemeetingadjournedat4:22p.m.

RecordedbyMaryPedersen,LegislativeAssociate.

Respectfullysubmitted,

AliciaSilva
Secretary